

## What is a load forecast?

*How predicting future power requirements is a lot like forecasting the weather*

BY F. WHIT HOLLOWELL JR., CEO



F. Whit Hollowell Jr.

When we hear the word “forecast,” we typically think of the weather. But electric cooperatives are tasked with managing a different type of forecast: *a load forecast*.

A load forecast is exactly what it sounds like—an estimate or prediction of how much electricity will be needed in the future. We all depend on power to meet our daily needs, but the amount we use varies from season to season, day to day and even hour by hour. This is why Georgia Energy Cooperative, Coastal Electric’s power supplier, plans far in advance to make sure there is enough power available to meet electricity demands.

Believe it or not, growth of electricity demand has actually decreased each decade since the 1950s, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Rising demand for electric services is offset by efficiency gains from new appliance standards and investments in energy-efficient equipment.

As demand fluctuates, Coastal Electric is prepared to maintain



**‘We can’t predict the future, but we can be prepared for what it holds.’**

electrical loads and keep the system running efficiently. This means extensive planning, as much as 20 years in advance. Coastal Electric works with Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia Energy Cooperative, evaluating areas of growth and predicting demand patterns for our local communities.

For example, if a new

subdivision or industrial park is built in our service territory, it’s our responsibility to ensure that adequate power will be provided to the members of that community or new manufacturing facilities. This type of growth may mean burying underground cable to the site, or even building a new substation. Whatever the need, Coastal Electric is prepared and will continue to provide members with safe, reliable electric service.

As technology changes, we’re becoming more efficient. In 2008, we implemented advanced metering infrastructure, which provides extremely accurate meter readings. In turn, this technology improves our ability to forecast future electrical loads and allows members to view their daily and hourly electricity use.

At Coastal Electric Cooperative, we can’t predict the future, but we can be prepared for what it holds. So leave the forecasting to us, and we’ll continue to provide safe, reliable electricity to power your life.

A large, stylized number '75' in blue with a white outline, set within a gold diamond shape. The word 'YEARS' is written in blue capital letters across the middle of the '5'.

**Coastal** Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
1940 - 2015

*Looking out for you  
since 1940*

Coastal Electric Cooperative is pleased to be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2015. As we mark this event, it is important to not only reflect on our history, but to remain committed to providing our member-owners quality service that will lead us into the future.

*Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve you for 75 years.*

# Apply now for Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Scholarship

The Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation is accepting applications for the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation's 2015 scholarships.

In May, the foundation will award six scholarships to students in south Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties. The competition for the \$5,000 scholarships is open to high school students who will attend an accredited college or a technical college in fall 2015. The competition is also open to students already enrolled in college, or adults planning to enroll in college or technical school. Scholarship applicants do not have to be members of Coastal Electric Cooperative.

The \$5,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute.

Factors for consideration include grade-point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors and financial need. A scholarship committee will select students who excel in these areas and who struggle with college expenses.

The scholarship is partially funded



through the voluntary donations of Coastal Electric Cooperative members through the Operation Round Up campaign, where members allow their electric bill to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. That money is handed over to the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation, which administers the fund.

#### Criteria:

- The recipient must reside in south Bryan, Liberty or McIntosh counties.
- Upon awarding of scholarship, the recipient must be enrolled in an accredited college or technical school program, either full time or part time.

- The grant is for undergraduate work only.
- The competition is open to high school students, as well as college and technical school students.
- Scholarship use must commence within one year of date of issuance and be used within two years of the date of issuance.
- Funds must be used at a two- or four-year accredited college or university including vocational-technical schools.

Since 2004, the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation has awarded more than \$47,000 to students via the Touchstone Energy Scholarship program.

To be eligible for the Coastal Electric Cooperative Touchstone Energy Scholarship during the 2015-2016 school year, students should contact Elizabeth Noles at Coastal Electric Cooperative at (912) 880-4029 or visit [www.coastalemc.com/foundationsscholarship.aspx](http://www.coastalemc.com/foundationsscholarship.aspx) and download an application. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. March 31, 2015.

## Coastal Electric's mobile app is here

The best tool for lowering your electric bill may be one you already own. If you have a smart-phone device (Android or iPhone), you can download a free app that will help you manage your electric bill—even pay it—at the touch of your fingers.

From the Apple App Store or Google Play, search for MyCoastalEC. Download the app, and you will have access to most of the features available on a desktop

computer. Our mobile app is designed to give you fast, secure access to your account. You will need your account number and a password. Use the same login credentials you use for Coastal's Web portal.

If you are a new user, follow the instructions on the app. If you need assistance, email [contact@coastalemc.com](mailto:contact@coastalemc.com) or call us directly at (912) 884-3311. When the auto attendant answers, just stay on the line to speak with a local representative.





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*Coastal Electric Cooperative,  
your Touchstone Energy® Partner,  
is a not-for-profit, member-owned  
power cooperative providing electric-  
ity to the people of Bryan, Liberty,  
Long and McIntosh counties.*



Touchstone Energy®  
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# Coastal Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members set for June 4 at Midway Middle School

**In accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws of Coastal Electric Cooperative, the following excerpts are being published for the information of the Members. Members will receive an official notice of the meeting in May.**

## Article IV Board Members

### SECTION 1. General Powers.

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of nine (9) members which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

### SECTION 2. Election and Tenure.

In order to equitably distribute the representation on the Board of Directors three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting each year, one (1) each from the counties of Bryan, McIntosh and Liberty to serve for a term of three (3) years, so that there always shall be a perpetual Board of experienced members to conduct the affairs of the Cooperative.

### SECTION 3. Qualifications.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a bona fide member and maintains a residence in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative. The individual must maintain an active presence in at least one of the communities served by the Cooperative and maintain a residence in the territory served or to be served by the Cooperative; or
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy.
- (c) is an employee of the Cooperative or who was employed by the Cooperative within a period of three (3) years immediately preceding the date on which such employee would take office if elected; provided, however, that any member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to be employed by the Cooperative on an interim basis not to exceed a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, such board member shall resign, and if such board member fails to resign, the Board of Directors shall remove such board member from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

### SECTION 4. Nominations.

#### (a) Nominations by the Nominating Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred twenty (120) days nor more than one hundred thirty-five (135) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than six (6) nor more than nine (9) members who shall be selected from different sections so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred (100) days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include at least one (1) candidate for each board position to be filled by the election.

#### (b) Nominations by Petition.

Other nominations for such election of board members may be made by written petition signed by not less than thirty (30) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his nominee not less than ninety (90) days prior to such meeting.

#### (c) Notice of Nominees.

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition, and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

#### (d) Nominations from the Floor.

Additional nominations for the election of board members cannot be made from the floor at such meeting of the members; except that in the event of death or for any other reason there is no candidate nominated by the nominating committee to run for a board position, then in such event additional nominations from the floor may be made. However, no member may nominate more than one (1) such candidate.

#### (e) Failure of Compliance.

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section as to the election of directors, except bad faith or intentional failure to comply, shall not affect the validity of the election of any director nor shall it invalidate the actions of all or any of the directors.